

The
Alcester Grammar



M.D.C.
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School Record.

1923-24.

Alcester Grammar School Record.

No. 16.

DECEMBER, 1923.

EDITOR—MR. DRULLER.

COMMITTEE—M. SHERWOOD, B. WELLS, L. SMITH,
LESTER, PARTRIDGE, HODGKINSON.

Editorial.

Few words are need to introduce the School Magazine in its new form. The size of the page has been reduced, the number of pages increased, and a cover has been added. It is hoped that the change will meet with the approval of all our readers.

We wish to call attention to the Old Scholars' News, which is to be made a permanent feature. The utmost has been done to gather information, but this section must, we feel, be at present very incomplete. It will be a great help to us if Old Scholars will communicate news either to H. Whitehouse or to the Editor.

Will subscribers who receive the Magazine by post kindly remit payment (plus postage) by return, in order to allow us to clear up our accounts before the end of the term.

Headmaster's Letter.

DEAR READERS,

I have only a few things to say to you in my letter this term.

First I must congratulate very heartily all those who were successful at the Oxford Examinations in July. The results surpassed our most sanguine expectations. May it ever be so.

I should like to compliment the girls upon their improvement in hockey. I do not think the form has ever been better than it is at present.

In football we miss some of the stalwarts of last year's team, but there is no lack of keenness, and if some members of the team are small, that defect will surely be remedied in time. The results of the matches played so far have been quite satisfactory. As I write the team is on the eve of trying its fortune in the Schools Cup. I have only one thing to say in regard to this. I do sincerely hope that its institution will not interfere with that happy spirit of friendly rivalry which has always marked our matches with neighbouring schools in the past. I should not like to appear ungracious to the donor of the Cup, but as the result of a pretty long experience I hold that extra stimulants, such as cups and prizes, do not really add to the pleasure which healthy boys and girls get from games.

It is with much regret that I announce that Miss Wilkins and Miss Taylor are leaving at the end of this term. Miss Wilkins has been with us more than eleven years, and there are many in the School who owe to her care and patience the joy of their earliest steps on the long road of education. All will join with me in wishing her and Miss Taylor every success in the future.

I have only to add the season's greetings to you. May you and yours have health and happiness this Christmas time, and may the coming year bring less anxiety and more prosperity to all.

YOUR HEADMASTER.

The School Register.

Valete.

*Clarke, C. E. (VI), 1916-23.	Hunt, C. (IVa), 1923.
*Hall, H. A. (VI), 1916-23.	Winnett, F. G. (IVa), 1916-23.
*Keegan, A. (VI), 1917-23.	Averill, P. (IVa), 1920-23.
*Mander, E. H. (VI), 1916-23.	James, W. H. (IIIa), 1919-23.
*Shrimpton, P. (VI), 1917-23.	Wheeler, A. V. (IIIa), 1920-23.
Hemming, M. (Va), 1918-23.	Skinner, W. (IIIa), 1920-23.
*Wilesmith, E. (Va), 1912-23.	Chatterley, K. M. (IIIb), 1923.
Bowen, S. (IVa), 1921-23.	Hickin, R. H. (IIIb), 1922-23.
Chapman, V. (IVa), 1918-23.	Skinner, D. (II), 1920-23.
*Prefect.	

Salvete.

Bagge, A. C. (IIIa).	Ewins, M. (IIIb).
Bennett, P. M. (IIIa).	Harris, A. P. (IIIb).
Canning, C. R. (IIIb).	Lloyd, A. (IIIa).
Canning, G. H. (IIIb).	Paice, M. (IIIa).
Chambers, M. (II).	Savage, B. H. (IIIa).
Crouch, M. (IIIb).	Smith, R. H. (IIIa).
Davis, M. (Ib).	Walters, P. M. (Ia).
Dowdeswell, C. M. (IIIb).	Whitcombe, B. (II).
Dowdeswell, G. H. (IIIb).	Winnett, R. F. (IIIb).

Old Scholars' News.

On Saturday, July 28th, the annual Summer meeting was held at the School. In spite of the unkindness of the weather, which resulted in a small attendance, the programme was adhered to, and an enjoyable afternoon was spent.

The annual Winter meeting is dated for Saturday, December 15th.

An Old Scholars' Dance was held in the Town Hall on Monday, October 29th. The attendance was by no means as large as in previous years, but all those present voted the dance a success. The catering arrangements were in the hands of Mrs. Bunting and Kathleen Perks and Ella Stock. It is regretted, however, that on the financial side the evening was a failure, a debt of over £5 being incurred. More than 100 invitations were sent out, but only about 25 replies were received. Old Scholars, wake up!

In a cricket match at Ragley, on July 26th, between an Old Boys' team and the School XI., the School gained an easy victory.

We learn with pleasure that A. Anker has been playing hockey for the Worcestershire (County) 2nd XI., and that he is first reserve for the 1st XI.

And that Maud Walker has been chosen reserve (forward) for the Worcestershire Ladies' Hockey team.

Congratulations to George Thomas on passing the Intermediate Trusts Accounts Examination.

Also, to Percy Perks, on passing the final examination of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries. He has now taken up an appointment at the Morris Motor Works, Oxford.

And to Phyllis Richardson, who is this year a Prefect at St. Gabriel's College, Camberwell.

Mr. Wells recently received a long letter from Downs, who is doing well in New Zealand.

Old Scholars will be sorry to hear that Victor Stock met with a motor-cycle accident in the middle of November, and is lying, as these notes are being written, in a serious condition in Stratford Hospital.

Nicknames.

Nicknames have been a speciality of A.G.S. in the past, and I can assure the Old Scholars that the present generation are vigorously maintaining the tradition. Nicknames are neither diminishing in numbers nor deteriorating in originality.

In the archives of the school "Porridge," "Piggy," and "Tizzer" are recorded, although their origins are no longer remembered. "Sally Blot," of yore, was wont to shed salt tears on her exercise book, thereby causing inky smudges; while "Rubber Neck" was always deeply concerned in the affairs of the person who occupied the desk behind. "Parrot" found geometry unintelligible, and when called upon to expound a theorem she would invariably await the kindly promptings of the teacher and automatically repeat word for word after him. "Ganny" and "Lapin" are still familiar, nor, I believe, are "Pups" and "Bommer" entirely forgotten. Last year we had a "Kekky" and a "Cake," but, unhappily, I have never been able to discover their derivations. "Midget" was naturally a very diminutive person, and "Broadcaster" used to divulge the sacred scandals of the Sixth.

However, you must admit the superiority of latter-day nicknames. "Beaver-Lamp-post" is a very small member of the middle school, and a devoted attender of the Stamp Club. "Professor" is an individual of prodigious learning. "Tubby" and "Feet," unfortunately, need no explanation. "Tishy," "Balmy," and "Golly" are all derived from their respective surnames, but I can find no foundation for "Pot," "Chirp," "Pumpkin," and "Beelzebub." VA contains a "Titus," and on enquiring its derivation you are further informed that "he is tight by nature," which implies—I will endeavour to explain as politely as possible—that his "exterior tegument" is extremely well filled. "Mrs. Cicero," a renowned Latin authority, resides also in VA. "Stuffin" is a distortion of that individual's surname, and not, as might be expected, a suggestion of excessive consumption.

Those who frequent the laboratory are especially well provided with nicknames. However, as most of them do little credit to their owners, usually indicating entire lack of natural ingenuity or elephantine clumsiness, it is kinder to admit them.

But, hush! Nicknames are not confined merely to scholars. The staff by no means escape with impunity. However, my article must not exceed six hundred words, so I am afraid it is impossible to enumerate them here. Let it suffice to disclose that we possess an "uncle" and a "Pat," and that we once had a "Penelope."

By "THISBE."

The Vikings.

Fierce was the battle waged,
As the wild tempest raged,
Axe on helm striking;
Raised was the sword on high,
Many bold men did lie—
Slain by the Viking.

Over the wild sea foam,
Far from their barren home,
Came the dread hordes;
Great was the fear of them,
Men quaked to hear of them;
Fled from their swords.

Then rose up Alfred, Great,
Saved England from her fate,
Shame and confusion;
Tide of war back he rolled,
Punished the Vikings bold
For their intrusion.

He fierce Guthrum pursued,
And at Wedmore subdued
His plundering band;
Brought, with his Christian words,
Far mightier than their swords,
Peace in the land.

A. P.

The British Threr-halfpenny Stamp.

To the uninitiated some apology may seem necessary for an article by one of the company of "stamp fiends," "cranks," or, as we prefer to call ourselves, "philatelists." Well, you shall have your apology, derisive ones; but in giving it I cannot forbear to shed a tear as I think of your misfortune in not having been captured by the "hobby of kings," the king of hobbies. "Cranks" we may seem, as

we fondly handle the little oblong of printed paper; "cranks," as we strain our eyes over a magnifying glass; "cranks," as we jump with joy at some new discovery. But, "cranks" or not, we have spent a pleasant hour; we have acquired something which affords us present joy, and will afford us still greater pleasure in the future.

In this article it is proposed to deal very briefly with our own 1½d. stamp from a philatelist's point of view. To commence, we examine the design (a poor one), and notice three main things: Firstly, the crown, the sign of kingship; secondly, the quaint sea-creatures in the lower corners, symbolic of our rule over the seas; thirdly, the inscription, "postage," "revenue," which informs us that the stamp may be used both on matter sent through the post and also on bills.

The next matter that claims our attention is the colour. Of course, it is brown. But with such a statement we are not satisfied, for this particular stamp varies considerably in colour, being now red-brown, now chocolate-brown, now chestnut, and again yellow-brown. We have to decide upon the exact shade.

Having for the time being finished with the face of the stamp, we turn it over to inspect the watermark in the paper. If it cannot be clearly seen it will be necessary to touch it with a spot of benzene. The watermark, we observe, is the "Royal Cypher," consisting of a crown, beneath which is written in script the device, G.v.R. This watermark occurs once on each stamp.

We proceed now to measurements. The stamp is an oblong standing on one of the shorter sides, and measures, approximately, 2.1 cms. by 2.4 cms. It will be seen that we are at least scientific in that we use the metric system for our measurements. The second and only other measurement that we take is that of the perforation. By convention we state the measure of perforation as so many perforated holes to every 2 cms. Thus our 1½d. stamp, measured by a "perforation gauge," is 15 x 14. This, being interpreted, means that, horizontally, there are 15, and vertically 14, perforated holes to every 2 cms.

Our examination of the stamp is still far from complete. We have yet to answer such questions as: What is the nature of the paper? What the nature of the gum? We want to know who was the designer of the stamp and who

are the printers; how many stamps are printed in a sheet, how they are arranged, and many other minute particulars such as these, which space will not allow us to dwell upon here.

Thus it is obvious that the acquirement of a new stamp means to the keen philatelist an immense amount of observation, study and inquiry, before he can fix it in his album and feel that he knows it thoroughly. And it is just when he feels that he knows all there is to be known about a particular stamp that the philatelist experiences that "thrill" of pleasure which, to the uninitiated, is incomprehensible.

The Development of Flying.

Although it is only a few years since the first aeroplane flew great progress has been made, and now it is scarcely any more dangerous to ride in an aeroplane than in a motor-car. When the Wright brothers, in 1902, made the first machine actually to fly (this was an engineless glider) people only jeered, and said that it was impossible for man to fly. Little did they think that in a few years' time transport by aeroplane would seriously compete with our trains and motor-cars.

After this little progress was made until 1908, when Bleriot and Farman, and some other men who are now famous, made some remarkable flights on what airman of to-day would consider to be very unsafe machines. The Bleriot monoplane was something like the monoplanes of to-day, and in this machine Bleriot made the first flight of the English Channel. The Farman biplane was a strange-looking thing, with small controlling wings at the front and back and the main wings in the middle. These machines were an advance upon the Wright glider because they had engines.

In 1912 the Caudron brothers built a new kind of biplane. It had a frame-work body, and was very similar to some of the modern seaplanes. This biplane was the first one to "loop the loop."

The Graham-White biplane was the first machine made to carry passengers. Its propeller was behind the main wing, and it was a five-seater, but it could take ten people if necessary. It was a great success, and was used much at Hendon for passenger flights.

The Great War brought about more progress in flying than many years of ordinary experimenting could have done, for such a great number of machines were invented and used that one could never remember all the different types. One of the most well-known was the Airco passenger biplane, which was used on the London-Paris route. Also, one must not forget the famous Vickers-Vimy machine, in which Captain Sir John Alcock flew to America in sixteen hours.

If progress is made in the future as rapidly as in the last few years, we shall soon think no more of going out in an aeroplane than in a motor-car.

H. H.

Notes and News.

The head girl of the School is Janet Wells, and the head boy Boylis I.

This year's "sides" captains are:—Brownies, M. Thomas and Staff; Jackals, M. Sisam, B. Thomas, and Bunting; Tomtits, J. Wells and Burdett.

Miss Brown joined the staff at the beginning of this term, and we all extend to her a hearty welcome.

The cricket bat presented by Mr. Cleasby was awarded at the end of last term to Mander.

The tennis racquet, given annually by Mrs. Wells, was gained by E. Wilesmith.

December 13th is Speech Day, and on this occasion Professor Black, of Sheffield University, is coming to present the certificates to successful candidates in the examinations. This year the ceremony is to be held in the Picture House, as the School Hall has of late proved too small to accommodate all the visitors.

On Wednesday, October 10th, a party of boys and girls from Forms II, IIIB, and IIIA, visited Stratford, in charge of Miss Jones, to see the Shackleton film.

For nearly a fortnight in the middle of the term the School boiler went on strike, and for two days, on account of the cold weather, only the three Upper Forms, working in the huts, were able to remain at School.

Miss Jenkins has been compelled, through ill-health, to resign her position of Sewing Mistress.

At the end of the present term we are losing Miss Wilkins, who has been with us since September, 1912, and Miss Taylor, who joined us in January, 1921.

A lantern lecture on Palestine was given on November 27th, in the School Hall, by Mr. R. L. Impey, of Barnt Green.

The device in the centre of the front page of the cover of the Magazine is the work of Dorothy Balmforth.

Burglars.

The shining of a flashlight through the windows, mysterious scufflings round the back premises, and also the disappearance of two exceedingly rosy apples, led us to suspect that small boys of the adventurous type were trespassing on our premises. Of course, this could not continue. The summons of a policeman, however, brought such ridicule upon us from the idle youth of Alcester that I determined to take matters into my own hands, although personally, I found no little amusement in the sensation which was caused.

Upon this memorable Saturday night a crowd of young idlers followed a policeman to our garden gate—in the hope of some excitement, I suppose. Any thrills, however, were soon changed to uncontrollable mirth when the policeman re-appeared dragging behind him no victim, and the pranks of several small boys were revealed. Peals of laughter from the road reached our ears. I was very annoyed then. I learnt afterwards that the contents of a meat basket were upset, and that meat was strewn over the road. No doubt this incident had much to do with their merriment. I heard some amusing accounts of my personal bravery on this day. The school had been robbed. I had caught the burglar on the stairs, and kept him in a room until the police arrived.

Although amused, I was also annoyed; and I determined to have my revenge on those wretched children who had made us the laughing-stock of the town. Consequently, when night approached, I made my way into the garden, and, with a most elaborate construction of clothes' props, wire-netting, and logs, prevented any intrusion. Then night

after night I waited. I pictured two small boys cautiously opening the gate and making their way towards the garden. Then a crash, as two small boys, tripped up by wire-netting, hurled themselves against logs and clothes' props. Best of all, I saw the picture of the two delinquents standing before me scared and trembling, while I harangued them in a stern and intellectual speech on the respecting of private property.

Night after night I conjured up these scenes and listened for the crash. Night by night I was disappointed. Either the two little wretches were too scared to proceed with their adventures, or they came with their flash lights and spied my elaborate preparations. If that was the case I have no doubt that, guessing the consequences of further explorations, they deemed it wiser to keep away. All I can say is that I hope they will continue to think so.

B. W.

How to Buy a Motor-Cycle.

"It's to be a Royal Enfield," said Pauline.

I listened without enthusiasm. This morning it was to be a Rover, and last night a New Imperial. To-morrow she will be convinced that nickel handle-bars are the one thing needful in a motor-cycle, and a new make will be in the ascendant.

"Have you been talking to Reggie?" I said, with the intuition of a Sherlock. (Reggie rides two wheels and a couple of safety pins that he call a motor-bike.) Pauline looked at me gently, and then, with a patient sigh, "Reggie rides a two-stroke, dear, not a motor-cycle." Then, with scorn: "I wouldn't be seen dead on one. Imagine making that awful little 'chut-chut' noise wherever you go. As a matter of fact, I was coming through the village and I saw the 'A. A' man—you know, that nice little man in yellow who stands at the cross roads (trust Pauline to know all the 'nice little men'), so I just went and asked him what he advised, and he says there's nothing to beat them—all chain drive, Blackburn engine, kick start, perfect internal . . ."

Half-an-hour later I woke up. Pauline, sitting on the floor amid a sea of motor literature, was anxiously comparing the beauties of a New Hudson and a James. The difficulty is that she is so fearfully particular. It mustn't be a Douglas because "they are so common." With a Raleigh there is a slight difficulty about pronunciation, and

a Wolf hasn't got an "all chain drive." What the latter may be she knows not, but Tom (or is it Leslie?) has impressed upon her that it is the one vital thing to seek for. It also (this, I think, is Dick) must have "automatic lubrication." She, herself, is particular only as to the colour of the tank. Nine or ten highly suitable makes have been ruthlessly put aside because they had, or had not, a blue tank and a gold stripe. I surreptitiously watched her, chewing a pencil and obviously making abstruse calculations.

"There's the bike itself—£45 10s., and tax 30s.; that's £47, and electric lighting (anxious hunt among Lucas papers for lighting sets and more calculations), that's £57 15s., and licence 5s.." Then, an aside, "Perhaps John would lend me his for a time," and subtraction of 5s. "Then there's insurance—an 'all-in policy' for £4 10s., that's £62 5s." A little louder, "I wonder if I could do it. It says something about 'deferred payments' here." Then followed a quotation from the book. "Only £10 down." I stirred uneasily. There was a rustle among the papers, and then a small voice in my ear: "You see, dear, I've only got £10, so if you could possibly lend me"

There came a mumble from myself, smothered by a hug, and then an ecstatic voice said: "You're a perfect dear, and you shall ride behind on the dickey the very first time I take her out." And I remembered with relief that, anyhow, £4 10s. out of my £62 had provided for the "all-in" insurance policy.

A. P. J.

Olla Podrida.

The presence this term of E. H. M. in Form VI. had not been noticed until he was called upon to translate by a member of the staff recently.

J. J. J. H. informs us that one of the places noted for its medicinal waters is Wigan! Has any reader yet visited this beautiful Spa?

Who holds the greatest number of offices or positions on committees of School Societies, etc.?

? ? ?

Can any of our Latin experts "translate" the following little ditty into English?

Is acer sed jacto his mas ter at te
Jus passus sum jam. Notabit anser de
Duce visor? Cos uva da lotas uno
Anu jus bene an etenim au lupa tago.

N.B.—Please do NOT send in your "translations" to the Editor for correction.

How to Brighten School Life.

School life is very dull, so some tell us. Such dry uninteresting lessons! Such hard, uncomfortable desks to sit in! Nothing exciting ever happening! Let me, then, suggest a few ways in which school life might be made brighter.

First, well—we begin rather early in the morning. I would suggest 11 a.m. as a suitable hour for the opening of school. Perhaps we should not then hear the continual, "Wake up, there!" "Get on with your work!"

Then, the modern classrooms are exceedingly uncomfortable. Instead of hard, wooden, upright desks, beautifully-cushioned couches and French windows opening out on to a lawn or to gravel walks and gardens, where all kinds of flowers might be found, would considerably brighten our outlook on work. A walk outside in a miniature Garden of Eden would surely sharpen our intelligences for the following lesson. In addition, a sideboard round the room containing ginger beer and cakes, or ices in the summer, and other restoratives, would certainly look more refreshing.

The present way of travelling to and from school is exceedingly undignified. Think of the scholars of such a school as ours tramping or pedalling night and morning; they surely ought to be supplied with Rolls-Royce cars.

Roller-skating down the corridor would have undoubted charms, even for the stately prefects; and a lift to the rooms above would do away with so much tramping up and down the stairs. All the walls of the class-rooms should be "dinner-proof," thus saving the voices of the teachers imploring us to make less noise.

A cinema installed in school would surely brighten school life, but considerable care would have to be taken as to what was shown us. For instance, if the boys found out how Charles I. waved his hair—imagine the result! Or if the

girls were allowed to know how Elizabeth gained her personal charms—but what trifles are these compared with the advantages of such an innovation. It would, of course, be used only on rare occasions, say, five times a week.

And, as we must have lessons, let us have to teach us sweet, benevolent creatures, who would never punish us, but tell us plainly what we ought to do, and, of course, we should always be obedient.

The reading of "Punch," instead of "Golden Treasury," and the study of the "C. N." and "My Magazine" instead of stolid "Warner and Marten," would greatly improve our knowledge of current topics.

There is, of course, no institution which has not its disadvantages, and these are but one or two suggestions to lessen them. And, in conclusion, since everything must have an end, let school finish at 3 p.m.

L. S.

Wireless Communication.

Perhaps the most wonderful of modern inventions is that of communication over vast distances without wires. There is no precedent in Nature to guide the scientist as in the case of the aeroplane, and yet, through the efforts of men of many nationalities, we have to-day wireless communication. It is one of the best examples of the international character of scientific investigation.

It was an English scientist who first suggested the existence of what we now call wireless waves. A German scientist, Hertz, first succeeded in proving their existence. Sir Oliver Lodge and Branly, a Frenchman, simultaneously invented the coherer, an early detecting device for these waves. But it was left to Marconi, a young Italian, to make practical use of them. After he had experimented a little (in 1895), he communicated with Sir William Preece, who was so "interested that he turned over his laboratory to the Italian worker, and urged him to continue his experiments with all the zeal he could command." Gradually the distance between the stations was increased; but the next great achievement was the invention of the thermionic valve by Dr. Lee de Forest, an American. This made possible the latest developments in wireless telegraphy and telephony.

The uses of wireless communication are already many. No steamship or aeroplane is complete without a wireless set. The use of wireless in the finding of position bids fair to rival in value that of the compass when used on these craft. For ordinary trans-marine communication it will not for a long time oust the cable, but it will allow many more messages to pass from place to distant place. Again, submarine cable telephony is impracticable, whereas wireless telephony to the Antipodes is only a matter of time and power.

Wireless telegraphy has already proved its value on the sea, and it is now illegal for British ships of a certain size to put to sea without it. No doubt this precautionary measure saves many thousands of lives each year. On the largest liners it is customary to issue a daily newspaper, the matter for which has been received by wireless. Also, business men, who cannot afford to neglect their affairs even when travelling by the fastest liners, are enabled to keep in touch with the world's markets.

On aeroplanes wireless telephony takes the place of telegraphy on ships, and the wireless apparatus of an aeroplane is a marvel of compactness. Both ships and "phones" benefit by the discovery of directional wireless. The marvellous directional receivers make it possible for the position of a sending station to be determined whether on land or sea or in the air. Directional transmission, although still in the experimental stage, makes possible wireless lighthouses, which will throw beams of wireless waves instead of beams of light waves.

One cannot touch on all the uses of wireless communication, but broadcasting already takes too prominent a place in modern life to be ignored. This, as yet in its infancy, will in the future be far more important than the press. It is the only means of allowing millions to hear simultaneously a speaker or musician.

Wireless is of the future. We have seen, and still are seeing, many wonders. But the next age will be a wireless age. In it the factories of our Midlands and industrial North will be fed with power transmitted from Norway's waterfalls. Newspapers will be replaced by broadcasting, and their illustrations by wireless transmission of pictures. Picture houses also may go the way of illustrated newspapers. Indeed, wireless has made the present age wonderful, but the real wireless age will be one of daily miracles.

H. T. L.

Oxford Local Examinations.

The following are the results of the July examinations:—

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION:

Group II. (Modern Studies).—E. H. Mander (distinction in History), C. E. Clarke.

Group IV. (Science).—H. A. Hall, H. T. Lester, A. Keegan.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION:

First Class Honours, Div. 2.—M. H. Sherwood (distinctions in English and History).

Second Class Honours, Div. 1.—N. Staff.

Third Class Honours.—S. A. Gothard (distinction in Physics), E. G. Wilesmith (distinction in History).

Passes.—G. P. Baylis, D. Balmforth, M. E. R. Griffiths, M. M. Hemming, H. K. Hunt.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the RECORD.

DEAR SIR,—May I be permitted to make a suggestion? It has occurred to me that many of your readers would be interested if you could see your way to print in an early number an article dealing with the history of the earlier "Newport" School in Alcester, etc., etc.

Yours truly,

AN OLD SCHOLAR."

[An article of this nature is already in hand, and we hope to include it in our next number.—ED.]

To the Editor of the RECORD.

DEAR SIR,—A few of us had a discussion the other day as to how many pupils had been admitted since the School opened in 1912. Our estimates differed very widely, and we should be pleased if we could have some information on the matter.

Yours, etc.,

"INQUIRER."

[The total number of pupils admitted up to the present date is 495. Was any one of you correct?—ED.]

To the Editor of the RECORD.

DEAR SIR,—In the last number of the Magazine one of the items was headed "Olla Podrida." What is the exact meaning of this expression?

Yours, etc.,

"PUZZLED."

["Olla Podrida," which you will again find as a heading in this number, means a "medley" or "miscellaneous collection." It is a Spanish phrase, and was originally the name given to a favourite Spanish dish of highly-seasoned stew. "Pot-pouri" is the French equivalent."—Ed.]

N.B.—Suggestions of a similar nature and queries on any subject will be welcomed, and will be dealt with to the best of our ability.—Ed.

Musical Society.

The Musical Society has begun its session with a fresh experiment, which has so far been successful, and has aroused new interest in the members. It was decided by the committee at the beginning of the term that in the coming session each "side" should be responsible for an evening's programme. The first meeting of the Society was held on September 30th, when the Tomtits gave a recital of English music. The Jackals provided the programme for the second meeting, and were able to profit by the previous experience of the Tomtits. Both evenings were very enjoyable, and now the two sides are eagerly anticipating the pleasure of criticising the performance which will be given by the Bownies next term.

Dr. Stokes has promised to give us a pianoforte recital later this term, and next term we shall have the pleasure of another visit from the Nafford Quartette.

D. B.

Postage Stamp Club.

The Stamp Club has now firmly established itself, and the short weekly meetings in the Art Room are well attended by collectors in IVB and upwards. This term the members, in addition to attending to their own albums, have been occupied, divided into small groups, in starting a general club collection from their duplicates. If one can judge from the rate at which it is at present growing, a considerable representative collection will soon be amassed.

There are times, however, when we all experience a shortage of duplicates, and when our collections seem at a stand still. Now there must be many hundreds of foreign stamps coming into the district which never reach the hands of collectors, but are destroyed. Members would be very grateful if non-collectors would save any foreign stamps they receive, and hand them to either Mr. Druller or the Secretary (Partridge i.) for distribution.

The Scouts.

To the Scouts the principal event of this term has been the inspection of the Troop by General Wiggin, County Commissioner for Warwickshire. This took place on Friday afternoon, October 26th. The Scouts first marched past on the field. Then they went into the Hall, where the General presented the Royal Humane Society Certificates awarded to Scouts Anker and Burdett for rescuing a lady and her boy from drowning this summer. After a speech to the townspeople present and Scouts, the General asked the former to pass out while he had a talk with the latter. Then there followed a display in the far field of drill by signs, pole drill, ambulance, and signalling. The Scouts are now preparing to take the Second Class Test. The Troop now numbers 52 Scouts.

H.T.L. (PATROL LEADER).

Debating Society.

It was necessary to hold a business meeting of the Society this term in order to elect three new members of the committee. At this meeting, held on Wednesday, October 24th. J. Wells, M. Sherwood, and Bunting were elected to the committee.

An ordinary meeting of the Society was held on Monday, November 12th. Bunting proposed that "School games should be compulsory, and that exception should only be made for reasons of health." M. Thomas seconded, and Lester opposed. M. Sherwood proposed, as an amendment, that "Games should be compulsory in the lower school, but in VA they should be optional." D. Balmforth seconded the amendment. When put to the vote the amendment was defeated, and the motion carried by 31 votes to 9.

If any members of the Society have any ideas for subjects for debate the secretary would be pleased to receive them.

H. T. L. (Hon. Secretary).

Nature Club.

Towards the end of the summer term a Nature Club was started for those who wished to join in Forms IA to IIIA. There were over forty members.

The Club took for its motto, "To see and admire, not to harm or destroy." The members decided that they would keep Nature Note Books in the form of illustrated Nature Diaries.

There are several promising books, which show interesting records, pressings, paintings, and pictures of keen Nature lovers.

It was hoped to have had expeditions and meetings after School hours, but the Club was discontinued until the spring term.

M. E. W.

Football.

The usual fixture list has been arranged for this term, and up to the present five matches have been played. Of these two were against Bromsgrove, two against Evesham, and one against Chipping Campden. On November 24th we met Evesham P.H.G.S., in the second round of the "Abbey Cup," and, in a game played in thick fog, we were defeated 5—1.

RESULTS.—v. Bromsgrove S.S. (away), won 4—3.

v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (home), won 6—3.

v. Bromsgrove S.S. (home), draw 3—3.

v. Chipping Campden G.S. (home), won 5—2.

v. Evesham P.H.G.S., lost 1—5.

Hockey.

With the autumn term the hockey season has started again, and the usual enthusiasm has been shown. In place of E. Wilesmith, who left at the end of the summer term, J. Wells was elected vice-captain. M. Sherwood was chosen to be secretary.

This year, for the first time, we have been running a 2nd XI. Three matches have already been played. The 1st XI. played Studley College, at Studley, on October 6th, and won by 8 goals to 1. On October 27th the 2nd XI. met Evesham 2nd XI. at Alcester. It was an exciting game, the score being 2—2. The third match was against Badsey Ladies, on November 3rd, when we managed to win by 2 goals to 1.

We have, up to the present, played two sides matches this term. In the first the Jackals beat the Tomtits by 2 goals to 1. According to the criticism of a member of the middle school, "The Tomtits were quite good, but they lacked finish." The second match, between Jackals and Brownies, resulted in a victory for the Jackals by 4 goals to nil.

W. M. S. AND J. W.

Cricket.

BATTING AVERAGES.

	Runs.	Innings.	Not Out.	Average.
Mander ...	214	10	—	21.4
Bunting ...	194	11	—	17.6
Baylis, i. ...	92	11	—	8.3
Perkins ...	82	11	1	8.2
Staff ...	66	11	—	6.

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	Runs.	Wickets.	Maidens.	Average.
Staff ...	184	45	26	4.1
Bunting ...	239	47	23	5.1

For the Juniors.

The Story of a Little Fairy.

Once upon a time there lived a little fairy in a sunflower in a beautiful garden in Fairyland. When she wished to go to her bedroom she had to walk down the stem to another flower. One hot summer day she thought she would like to leave Fairyland, and fly away to a cooler land on her dragon-fly. When the dragon-fly put her down she walked about until she came to a shady tree. There she fell asleep. When she woke up and walked away to look for her dragon-fly a great big pink hand snatched her up and held her tight, and carried her away to a castle and made her a prisoner. The poor little fairy was very sad shut up in this big place. At last she remembered she had brought her magic wand. She waved it towards the door and said, "To be home again." She shut her eyes, and when she opened them she was in Fairyland again, and all her little companions were round her asking her where she had been. The fairy never wanted to go away again. She was glad that her dragon-fly had come back. She was made the second Fairy Queen.

JOSEPHINE LANE, 1b, 7 years.

John Kenerson's Rabbit.

Once upon a time there lived a little boy. His name was John Kenerson. One day he went into the fields, and he saw a little rabbit. He took it home. He made a cage with wire windows, and a little trough for its food made out of tin. One day he picked the rabbit up, and it bit him and jumped out of his hand and ran into a field.

In the evening the farmer, whose name was Farmer John, found him eating carrots, turnips, and leaves in his garden. He killed it and ate it for supper.

At supper John Kenerson came and said, "I have lost my rabbit." Farmer John said, "What colour was it?" "White," said Kenerson. "I am very sorry; we are just eating it. I will give you another for your birthday, for it is to-morrow."

John made a better cage for the new rabbit, and he lived a very long time with him.

PETER SMITH, IB, 7 years.





